



Would you give up your extra Halloween candy for \$1? (Tetra Images / Getty Images)

Trick or Treat Trade-in?

Dentists around the country are paying kids who turn in their Halloween candy

By Tyrus Cukavac | October 27 , 2010



Halloween is the time of year when kids all around the country put on costumes and travel door-to-door scaring their neighbors to get sweets. Experts estimate that more than \$2 billion dollars in candy will be sold in preparation for Sunday's spooky holiday.

That's a lot of candy. Eating all those sweets can take a toll on your teeth, causing cavities. That's why dentists across the nation are teaming up to get kids like you to eat less candy this Halloween and protect your healthy smile—and they're willing to pay you for it.

Dr. Chris Kammer of Middleton, Wisconsin, has been buying back extra Halloween candy from his patients for years. His program started small, but more than 1,700 dentist's offices across America are now participating.

After Halloween, kids can go to participating dentists to receive \$1 and a flashing toothbrush for every pound of candy they turn in. Dentists hope this program will raise awareness about dental health and keep some of that candy from causing cavities.

In 2006, Dr. Kammer teamed up with Operation Gratitude, a charity that supports American military troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. After kids bring in their extra sweets from trick-or-treating, dentists send the candy in care packages to men and women in the armed forces to give them a little bit of home and to thank them for their service.

This year, the group plans to ship 60,000 care packages to troops overseas. That makes more than 600,000 care packages sent since the program began. It's an easy way to make a difference just by trick-or-treating.

To find out if there is a participating dentist near you, [visit the Halloween Candy Buy Back's Web site](#). Have a healthy Halloween!